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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all

Statement submitted by SOS Éducation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The combat to eradicate poverty by 2030 must be based on strategies that take into account the respective political, social and economic situations of different States.

The main drivers of poverty in sub-Saharan and certain Asian countries are an absence of democracy, a lack of respect for human rights, and poor governance, as well as the misappropriation of national wealth by a minority of the population. The democratic deficit is at the origin of fratricidal wars and their associated consequences, which include enforced disappearance, population displacement and destruction of infrastructure, as well as disease, rape and death. Wars must be prevented, or resolved through dialogue.

A further issue is the violation of human rights, in particular those of vulnerable people such as women, children and the elderly, who are denied the basic means of subsistence as a result of discrimination and rejection. Moreover, social infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, roads and an effective policy on food self-sufficiency are nearly non-existent. People must have access to care, housing and sufficient food, and emphasis must be placed on education and training for young people, including through the provision of adequate infrastructure and qualified teaching staff. The State must also create jobs or finance self-employment for women and young people, as well as developing new technology for use in education, training and manufacturing. Furthermore, the State must guarantee public safety, which is an indispensable foundation for peace and investment.

This combat must also take account of environmental considerations, including by reducing pollution of the environment so as to preserve life, species, water courses and the natural world as a whole. Lastly, under-developed countries must be supported through official development assistance (ODA), which must not only be made a reality but also be tailored to the genuine basic needs of the populations concerned. To achieve sustainable development by 2030, this is what it will take.